

I support media diversity!!!

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

Come on! I do not know where to begin to express my absolute outrage regarding the looming decision that appears ready to befall the public regarding changes in media ownership rules. We tend to conflate capitalism and democracy in this grand country of ours; however, I strongly ask that you break this pattern and keep the current rules in place to help ensure competition, diversity and localism in our media.

We ARE a democracy and I hold onto the hope that just because FCC employees have accepted almost .8 million worth in trips over the past eight years by the telecommunications and broadcast industries and relies heavily on industry-generated data to justify deregulation that the fate of the public airwaves has not already been bought.

Perhaps it is the FCC's intention to stifle open, informed discussion. Perhaps the talons of the industry have sunk so deeply into the FCC that concerns about public interest are merely considered nuisances that can be easily disregarded. I hope not.

You have a decision to make that exceeds your personal interest and certainly exceeds the interest of Rupert Murdoch, General Electric, Viacom, Disney, and others. I strongly urge the FCC to hold public hearings (in addition to the official hearing in Richmond, VA) elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Lora Vess
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